GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:628
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
UNIVERSITIES AS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gnanam and Soneri Committees have recommended that financial restrictions imposed by the present system of University Governance are not conducive to making universities as the centres of excellence;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committees have suggested that Universities be allowed to form Joint Ventures with private partners;

(d) if so, whether the Universities are likely to be asked to generate their own revenue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.628 DATE 6.5.2003 ASKED BY SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE, MP REGARDING UNIVERSITIES AS CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As informed by the University Grants Commission(UGC),some of the recommendations of Gnanam Committee which have been accepted by Soneri Committee, inter alia, include that due to financial restrictions, the present system of university administration is non-conducive to achieve the goals of excellence.

(c): No, Sir. The said committees have not suggested that universities be allowed to form joint ventures with private partners. However, it has been emphasized that corporate sector be encouraged to support higher education by establishment of irrevocable endowments for special chairs, research activities etc. Collaboration with industry has also been suggested through visiting Professorships, consultancies, setting up of research laboratories on the university campus etc.

(d) & (e): UGC has introduced an incentive scheme in1995 for giving matching grants to the Universities to the extent of 25% of the additional resources raised by them, subject to a ceiling of Rs.25.00 lakh. The main objective of the Scheme is to encourage universities to mobilize resources by participation/contribution of society in their development and to encourage and enhance the flow of resources coming from society for university development.